

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CU-04 SAJ-01 IO-14 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

DRC-01 /157 W

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R 170600Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8475

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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NOFORN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN

REF: A. PEKING 1207; B. HONG KONG 9372

SUMMARY. PRC MEDIA CONTINUE TO REFLECT THE CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE CONFUCIUS WITHOUT GIVING NEW CLUES AS TO ANY INDIVIDUAL TARGET IN THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP. END SUMMARY

1. THE BRITISH HAVE PASSED US A SIMILAR REPORT OF THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN AT PEKING UNIVERSITY (REF A). IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT FACULTY MEMBERS ARE REPORTEDLY CONCERNED TO IDENTIFY THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP GROUP UNDER ATTACK IN THE CAMPAIGN. THIS REACTION, OF COURSE, IS UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESSIVE PURGES WHICH HAVE DOMINATED CHINESE POLITICAL LIFE FOR THE PAST
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SEVEN YEARS. AND THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS IN AUGUST, WITH ITS

THEMES OF STRUGGLE AND "GOING AGAINST THE TIDE," CERTAINLY DID NOT
DISCOURAGE EXPECTATION OF FURTHER INTRA-PARTY WARFARE.

2. VIEWED FROM HERE, THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO
LOOK LIKE A GENERAL COUNTER ATTACK IN DEFENSE OF THE CULTURAL
REVOLUTION. WE HAVE NO NEW CLUES THAT WOULD POINT CLEARLY AT
SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL TARGETS IN THE CURRENT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
(REF B), AND THE ATTACK PRESENTLY IS FALLING BARRAGE-LIKE OVER
THE PERIMETER OF REGIME POLICY. TWO RECENT ATTACKS MAYBE WORTH
PARTICULAR MENTION.

3. EDUCATION. THE ATTACK, LAUNCHED JUST PRIOR TO THE PARTY
CONGRESS, ON THE REINTRODUCTION OF UNIVERSITY EXAMS WAS REFLECTED
IN A SEPTEMBER 27 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE WHICH SLASHED AT
CONFUCIAN ADVOCACY OF "UNIVERSAL EDUCATION WITHOUT CLASS DISTINCTION."

BY IMPLICATION, THE ARTICLE UPHELD THE PRINCIPLE OF FAVORING
STUDENTS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR POLITICAL PERFORMANCE. LIU SHAO-CHI
LIN PIAO, AND CHEN PO-TA WERE ATTACKED BY NAME, AS WAS FORMER
PROPAGANDA CHIEF LU TING-YI. MENTION OF THE LATTER SUGGESTS A
WARNING AGAINST ANY RETURN TO "HUNDRED FOLLOWERS"
LIBERALISM TOWARD INTELLECTUALS. ATTACKS OVER EDUCATION
BEAR WATCHING, FOR THE UNIVERSITIES AND STUDENTS APPEAR TO BE THE
CURRENT INSTRUMENTS IN THE ANTI-CONFUCIAN CAMPAIGN, AND EDUCATION
IS THE AREA IN WHICH "PRO-CULTURAL REVOLUTION" FORCES HAVE THUS
FAR FOUGHT BACK MOST IMPRESSIVELY.

3. CENTRAL AUTHORITY VERSUS REGIONALISM. PEOPLE'S DAILY
SEPTEMBER 28 REPRINTED AN ARTICLE FROM THE LIAONING DAILY
WHICH STRUCK OUT AT CONFUCIUS FOR SEEKING TO REESTABLISH THE SYSTEM
OF REGIONAL FEUDAL PRINCES, AND THE CURRENT ISSUE OF RED FLAG
(NO 10) HAS ALSO CHIMED IN ON THE GENERAL THEME OF CENTRALISM
OVER REGIONALISM. TAKEN LITERALLY, THIS ATTACK MAY BE AIMED AT
THE AUTHORITY WIELDED BY REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDERS OUTSIDE
PEKING.(IF THIS IS THE CASE, IT IS INTERESTING THAT LIAONING,
BALIWICK OF MANCHURIA'S MILITARY BOSS CHEN HSI-LIEN AND THE
LEADER IN THE UNIVERSITY EXAM CONTROVERSY SHOULD BE THE FIRST
TO AIR THE ATTACK.) ALTERNATIVELY, THE ATTACK ON
REGIONALISM COULD ALLUDE TO A DISPUTE OVER THE RESTORATION OF
REGIONAL PARTY AUTHORITY, A SUBJECT POSSIBLY MADE TIMELY BY THE
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REHABILITATION OF SEVERAL FORMER PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL PARTY
chiefs. FINALLY, TAKEN MORE FIGURATIVELY, THE ATTACK ON REGIONAL
AUTHORITY MAY REFER TO THE REINSTATEMENT OF EXPERTS AS POLICY
MAKERS IN SPECIALIZED FIELDS, SUCH AS EDUCATION. THE LATTER
INTERPRETATION COULD POINT, AS WE HAVE SUGGESTED BEFORE, TO DEBATE
OVER WHO IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE STATE COUNCIL AT THE COMING
NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.

4. WHATEVER AND WHOMEVER IT GOES AGAINST, THE ATTACK ON REGIONALISM
IS DREDGING UP THE OLD GAMBIT OF LIKENING MAO BY IMPLICATION TO
THE EMPEROR CHIN SHIH, WHO BY RUTHLESS METHODS FIRST UNITED CHINA.
CHIN SHIH IS BEING DEFENDED AS HAVING BURNED THE RIGHT BOOKS AND
BURIED THE RIGHT SCHOLARS. SPEAKING OF MAO BY THE ALLEGORY HAS
IN THE PAST PROVED TRICKY BUSINESS. WE WOULD HAZARD THE SPECULATION
THAT RESORT TO IT NOW IS IN PART AIMED AT A GREATER INSERTION
OF HIM INTO CONFUCIAN CAMPAIGN THAN HE WOULD OPENLY AVOW.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HONGK10447
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2 DEAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731027/aaaaatvu.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. PEKING 1207; B. HONG KONG 9372
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN
TAGS: PINT, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005